## REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 12 and 17 of the aforementioned patent application are amended; claims 2, 13 and 18 are incorporated into the corresponding independent claims 1, 12 and 17 and canceled.

Early allowance of the claims is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 32,720

William J. Barber
Attorney for the Applicants

/dap
November 11, 2004
WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS
& ADOLPHSON LLP
Customer No. 004955
Bradford Green, Building Five
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 261-1234